6/19/68

Dear Jim,

I asked Hal Verb to check out some things that I thought might be of interest to you. Do not know whether it adds to your knowledge or not, but here it is.

I do not recall having known of this Bradley connection.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

So much for the rumor mill. Now I'll try to present some factual data. I checked further into the Universal Life Church and found the following: From the National Review (April 9, 1968) under the heading of "The Week" appeared this story:

"A fat sheaf of requests for 4-D(ministerail) deferments from 1-As (Hey, you?) in the California draft pool has Selective Service officials rubbing their collective chin. Draft boards across the state are particularly skeptical of the many young clerics who have seen the light through the good graces of the Universal Life Church, Inc., the president of which corporation, the Rev. Kirby J. Hensley, explained his religious order this way to a New York Times reporter:"We ordain you without question of you faith, for life and without a price...You can start a church, and we'll send you a charter ...and you can have it right in your own home if you ain't got nowhere else, know what I mean?" Know what you mean. Selective Service regulations entitle accredited ministers ans seminarians to 4-D classification. California law gives the individual churches the right to establish qualifications for their ministries. THe Rev. Mr. Hensley figures that his brand of spiritualism has kept "probably a hundred or more" young men out of military service thus far, and the reformation has just begun."

I checked the New York Times index and located the article by that reporter. It appeared in the March 24th edition(1968) under the heading:"California Selective Service Officials probe Universal Life Church, Inc., Modesto Sect which repeatedly ordains as minister youths seeking to avoid draft." I have, however, not had a chance to look this article up. I hope to do so in the near future and I'll send you a copy.

I checked out the Rev. Hensley in the Modest phone book and his address is 1766 Poland Road, Modesto, Calif. (Tel.#537-0553).

As you requested I'm enclosing copies of both my letter to Thornley and his reply to me. As I noted in pencil on my copy to Thornley my question to him concerned his knowledge of Oswald as having a "crypto" clearance. His reply simply says that "the same theory has occurred to me" whatever he may mean by this.

I checked further into both the National States Rights Party and the Laymen's Commission of the American Council of Christian Churches (of which Bradley is a member). This is what I found in a book entitled the "Encyclopedia of Associations" (Fifth Edition, 1968). Volume I - National Organizations of the United States. This is published by Gale Research Co., Book Tower, Detroit, Mich. 48226:

On page 704:
National States Rights Party(NSRP)
P.O. Box 184
Augusta, Ga. 30903

Edward R. Fields, Director - Founded 1948 - Members 5641. Political party advocating racial segregation and state sovereignty. Membership composed of "White Gentile Americans of voting age." Publication: Thunderbolt, monthly.

On page 1012
"American Council of Christian Laymen" (The listing says it is now called the "Laymen's Commission of the American Council of Christian Churches").

On page 821
Laymen's Commission of the American Council of Christian Churches", P.O. Box 8775, Pittsburgh, Pa., 15221, George F. Kurtz, Chairman. Founded 1949 - Staff 3. Fundamentalist Christians, predominately Presbyterian, active in religious and educational [illegible], and "interested in moral and religious phases of national and international issues."

Publication: Challenge, irregular. Formerly(1968) American Council of Christian Laymen. Holds annual meetin in conjunction with American Council of Christian Churches.

If you'll recall in my last letter to you I mentioned that Bradley was on the "Laymen's Commission" and that the name John Stormer (also on the "Commission") seemed familar. Stormer is the author of "None Dare Call it Treason" which was the right-wing paperback that flooded bookstores during the Goldwater campaign. He has written a new book, entitled, I believe, "A Nation of Hate". It is advertised in recent issues of the "National Review". If I'm not mistaken, this book deals with the so-called Communist plan to incite riots throughout the country. It would be intersting to learn just how well Stormer knows Bradley